

Executive Director's Report

February 18, 2004

Announcements

- Secretary of State Brewer has appointed Tracey Bardorf to fill the commissioner position formerly held by Gene Lemon. Commissioner Bardorf is an attorney with the law firm, Brown & Bain, a resident of Maricopa County, and a registered Republican.
- In the redistricting case, Judge Fields signed an order that permits candidates in the 2004 election to collect nomination petition signatures and \$5 qualifying contributions from the 2004 legislative districts and any subsequent districts approved for 2004.
- On April 29th, I will be a panelist for a seminar on Arizona Election Law sponsored by the State Bar.
- Fund Balance at the end of January was \$11,656,608.

Candidate Information Update

- There are 45 certified participating candidates to date.
- Letters sent to all candidate committees registered to date about the rule changes and how they affect all candidates. The second set of rule changes is posted on the website to solicit public comment.
- Updated the *Act, Rules and Policy Manual* with the recent rule changes.
- Awaiting response from Secretary of State's Office about whether they will be posting the qualifying contributors in the website.

Voter Education

- To alleviate concerns from the Justice Department about separate Spanish and English versions of the Candidate Statement Pamphlet, the proposed changes for the Commission approval are as follows:
 - Combine the Spanish and English pamphlets into a single pamphlet;
 - Decrease font size of the statements from 12 point to 8 point;
 - Increase cost for postage and expedited translation services, approximately \$10,000.
- The next candidate training class will be in Phoenix on February 25th. The treasurer and nonparticipating candidate training classes have been prepared and will begin in March.
- Public Relations Contract ends in March 2004. The Scope of Work for new PR contract has been transmitted to SPO (State Procurement Office) for the RFP to be opened for qualified vendors.
- Prepared information materials for both debate sponsors and candidates who will attend the debates. Potential sponsors will be considered during this meeting.
- Newspaper ads providing information about the qualifying contributions will start running the end of next week in the following newspapers: *Arizona Republic*, *Business Journal*, *Tucson Star*, *Inside Tucson Business*, *Arizona Daily Sun*, and the *Yuma Daily News*.

Legal and Legislative Matters

- *Association of American Physicians and Surgeons v. Brewer* (challenge to matching funds provision in the Clean Elections Act) was filed in federal district court on January 29, 2004. The Attorney General's Office is working on the Answer. The Answer is due by March 10, 2004.
- Audit RFP completed. Letter sent to potential vendors to notify them of the solicitation and for them to register with SPO. The contract is expected to be awarded in early April.
- In reference to Commissioner Busching's question about challenging misinformation given by petition gatherers, the Commission would have to file as a political committee against the ballot measure.
- Proposed Legislative Changes to the Act:
 - Senate Bill 1331 has been assigned to the Judiciary Committee, but has not been placed on the committee agendas for consideration
 - House Bill 2227 has not been assigned to any committee.

Agenda Items for March 30, 2004 Meeting:

- Demonstration of Treasurer Training Class
- Approval of Rule Changes
- Changes to Enforcement Process